



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

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Awards recognize business and industry partnerships with education

Nine Business Friends of Education named for 2008

MADISON—Nine business and industry partnerships that support student academic achievement received recognition Friday during the 72nd annual Wisconsin Association for Career and Technical Education Conference in Stevens Point.

In naming her 2008 Business Friends of Education, State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster noted that business partnerships are the foundation for successful school- and work-based programs. “Work-based learning empowers students to apply academic and technical knowledge in a dynamic business or industry setting. As a result of service-learning, State Certified Co-op, Youth Apprenticeships, and industry partnerships, our youth are better prepared for their future roles in the 21st century global workforce.”

Awards were presented to

Dan Scheuers and the staff **Waupun Equipment Company** for nearly 10 years as workplace mentors to students in the Waupun area. Students who work at Waupun Equipment learn all aspects of the business and obtain life-long skills in not only parts and service, but customer service as well. Many students stay on after high school while continuing their education at the local technical college.

First Community Credit Union for its 17-year relationship with Sparta area schools, providing student employment in both the Financial Youth Apprenticeship and the Business and Marketing State Certified Co-op program. The on-the-job training students receive at First Community has had such a long-term impact that some of the credit union’s management employees started their careers as high school students. Accepting the award for First Community Credit Union were **Rebecca Hanson** and **Hollie Peth**.

All About Learning, led by **Heidi Krueger** and **Lisa Turnacli**, for partnering with Oconomowoc High School to provide mentorship and paid work experience for childcare service students. Krueger and Turnacli—directors for the infant, preschool, and school-age childcare facility, with locations in Oconomowoc and Hartland—provide encouragement, guidance, and support that allows students to grow personally and professionally.

(more)

Jean Vetter and **Times Printing** for having the foresight to promote a graphic arts program in the Random Lake School District. In 1989, the company offered equipment and expertise to begin a graphic arts program, which started at Random Lake High School the following year. As the program grew and the state developed a Youth Apprenticeship program in printing, Times Printing continued its partnership, training students in all aspects of the industry as well as supporting students' academic achievement in school. In addition to student interns, Times Printing employs several Random Lake Youth Apprenticeship graduates full time.

Educators Credit Union and **Charles DuFord** for supporting work-based learning and financial literacy through its branch located inside Kenosha's Bradford High School. DuFord mentors the two student employees, who are part of the Financial Services Youth Apprenticeship Program. He exposes them to all aspects of credit unions, not just the day-to-day branch operations, providing quarterly evaluations on the students' work performance and supporting their efforts to earn a State Certified Skills Standard in Marketing. Duford and the staff of Educators Credit Union are said to spend so much time volunteering at the high school they could be mistaken for Bradford faculty members.

St. Mary's at Felician Village for providing many Family and Consumer Education students in the Manitowoc School District an extension of their classroom. Over the past 12 years, the assisted living and comprehensive nursing home has provided workplace mentors to the students enrolled in the Health Services Youth Apprenticeship Program. For the past 20 years, St. Mary's has partnered with the work experience program in all career and technical education areas to provide positions and student mentors in dietary science, nursing, housekeeping, and sales and customer service. **Joyce Greenwood-Aerts** represented St. Mary's at Felician Village.

Carla Leuck and her staff at **Royal Credit Union** for 15 years of providing mentors and training sites for Eau Claire School District students enrolled in the State Certified Work Based Learning and Youth Apprenticeship programs. Additionally, Royal Credit Union has helped open branches in both Eau Claire high schools. These student-run institutions are model-training sites that provide hands-on learning. Additionally, Lueck has embraced Wisconsin's Financial Literacy Initiative, getting involved in Money Smart Week each October and serving as the local chairperson for Eau Claire. She, along with many volunteers, provides financial education throughout the community for students of all ages.

Nick Rolf and **Household Utilities Incorporated** of Kiel (HUI) for partnering with Lakeshore Technical College and its School-to-Work consortium for the past eight years. HUI supports Youth Apprenticeship students' placement in welding, industrial equipment, and drafting and design. In addition, HUI offers tuition support for these work-based learning students upon completion of their high school program to pursue an education at Lakeshore Tech and ultimately employment at HUI.

Although not at the awards program, **Waunakee Manor and Health Care Center** in Waunakee also received a 2008 Business Friends of Education award for its support to Youth Apprenticeships and work-based education.

"I want to thank these Business Friends of Education for their support of career and technical education programs in Wisconsin," Burmaster said.

This is the sixth year these awards have been given to recognize the value of business and industry partnerships in helping students gain 21st century skills. Sharon Wendt, director of the Department of Public Instruction's Career and Technical Education Team, presented the awards on behalf of the state superintendent.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_41.pdf. Photos from the event are available on the State Superintendent's Photo Gallery at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sprntdnt/photos/2008.02.29.BusinessFriends/index.html>.